quantity diminishes in hot weather. Below is a stratum of brackish water, and if this is tapped the well is spoilt for all practical purposes. This is one of the reasons restricting to a great extent the utility of the tube wells recently introduced. The necessity of supplementing the good work done through tube wells is thus manifest. A sum of Rs. 1,200 has been provided in the Public Works Department budget for experimental boring operations in three or four suitable localities. If subterranean water could be tapped at any place, the necessity would be met, to a large extent of a copious and potable water supply.

PENSION TO VILLAGE OFFICERS

Another item of expenditure for which we have made provision this year is in connection with the grant of pension to the village officers of this State recruited since 1099 M.E. The members of this Honourable House have been advocating the cause of these people for a long time now. The decision of Government to grant pension to all village officers, irrespective of the dates of their entry into service, removes a grievance which was a source of heartburn to newcomers to these services, who had to retire along with the others on superannuation but with no pension. It is hoped that the prospects of pension will attract educated young men to these services in larger numbers, and that the chances of losing the pension in the event of misconduct will conduce in a larger measure towards official rectitude and good behaviour.

AMENITIES TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

The provision of Rs. 5,000 for noonday meals to school-children is another refreshing item, which, it is hoped, would be widely appreciated. It is obvious that Governmental generosity in this respect has to be supplemented largely by private munificence if the object in view has to be achieved in full.

MEASURES AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

The provision of Rs. 4,000 made in the Medical budget for a Tuberculosis Clinic at Trichur is another item designed to meet a long-felt want. The clinic at Trichur was opened on 1st January, 1941. The establishment of the clinic was the result of acceptance by the Government of the suggestions made by Dr. Moller, Medical Commissioner to the Tuberculosis Association of India. "The aim for combating tuberculosis in the State," observed the learned doctor in a communication to Government, "is to work out a scheme for prevention and organised home-treatment in order to reach as many patients as possible both with the object of treatment as well as can be done under the circumstances and of preventing

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